

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

SSC-01 IO-14 /103 W

----- 061491

O R 281720Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5677

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 0694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EI, UK(NI)

SUBJ: FAULKNER RESIGNS

1. AS THIS CABLE IS DRAFTED AFTERNOON MAY 28, RADIO HAS JUST CARRIED NEWS THAT PM FAULKNER HAS RESIGNED IN NI. (SDLP AND ALLIANCE PARTIES HAVE NOT SUBMITTED RESIGNATIONS FROM NI EXECUTIVE.) IN INITIAL STATEMENT, FONMIN FITZGERALD DESCRIBES FAULKNER'S STEP AS "A TRAGEDY."

2. GOI HAS ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT FAULKNER WAS ESSENTIAL TO SURVIVAL TO NI EXECUTIVE COALITION. FONMIN'S STATEMENT SHOWS THAT HE BELIEVES EXECUTIVE HAS COLLAPSED. AT YET, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INFO IN DUBLIN ON POSSIBLE LAST-MINUTE MANEUVERS TO SAVE EXECUTIVE.

3. ASSUMPTION HERE HAS BEEN THAT, IF EXECUTIVE COLLAPSES, THERE WOULD BE IMMEDIATE RETURN TO DIRECT RULE BY WESTMINISTER. IN THIS EVENT, MAJOR FEAR IN DUBLIN IS THAT BRITISH WILL GROW WEARY OF IRISH LIABILITY AND WITHDRAW TROOPS BEFORE STABLE POLITICAL SITUATION ACHIEVED.

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4. COMMENT: FAULKNER RESIGNATION COMES AS VERY SERIOUS BLOW, THOUGH AT THIS POINT NOT MUCH OF A SURPRISE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A MAJORITY OF PROTESTANT COMMUNITY, CAN, IF IT WISHES, MAKE NI UNGOVERNABLE. WHAT IS NOT CLEAR IS THE CONTRARY: CAN BULK OF PROTESTANT COMMUNITY ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION WHICH WOULD MAKE NI VIABLE? ANSWER TO THIS IS STILL NOT IN. IN LOOKING TO FUTURE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT, DESPITE HEAVY FIRE ON SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT OVER PAST MONTHS, NO ONE HAS PRODUCED ANY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE MAY BE NO PEACEABLE OPTION EXCEPT TO KEEP TRYING POWER-SHARING SOLUTION, AFTER ALLOWING MORE TIME FOR DIFFICULT ATTITUDE-CHANGE. PROTESTANTS HAVE, AFTER ALL, BEEN ASKED TO ACCEPT ENORMOUS CHANGE IN VERY SHORT PERIOD. THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY, ALWAYS THE OTHER OPTION OF INCREASED VIOLENCE. FAULKNER'S RESIGNATION BRINGS THIS OPTION CLOSER. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NORTHERN IRELAND, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** FAULKNER RESIGNS  
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**To:** STATE  
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